



# **ALPINE LINE**

**Mar/Apr 2017**

***NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ALLEGHENY CHAPTER of NARGS***



## **49th ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE**

The Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will hold its 49<sup>th</sup> annual Rock Garden Plant Show and Sale at Soergel Orchards on Sunday, May 7. The event will be located behind the market on the patio and inside the barn. The Show and Sale is our only public display and fundraiser, and member participation is vital to its success. There are many ways Allegheny

Chapter members can contribute. First and foremost, consider bringing a trough, container, or cut flower arrangement of rock garden plants you have grown. The show is our opportunity to exhibit to the general public the beautiful and sometimes challenging plants we grow in our rock gardens and troughs.

Soergel's is located at 2573 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA 15090, just off the intersection of I-79 and Route 910. We look forward to greeting the general public and showing them the unique plants we rock gardeners routinely grow. Please consider entering some of your favorite rock garden plants.

We need a lot of hands to keep things running smoothly, so plan on attending the Show & Sale.

## **Annual Plant Show Schedule and Rules**

### **Schedule**

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Entries received by show committee
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Plant sale open to public
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Judging of exhibits (show floor closed to public)
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Show open to public

### **Rules**

1. Nonmembers of the Allegheny Chapter of NARGS are encouraged to enter but will not qualify for high cumulative score monies or trophies.
2. There are no limits on the number of entries per class.
3. The term "rock garden plant" shall mean any plant suitable for the rock garden – be it a bog garden, shade garden, native garden, or alpine house.
4. All plants for competition must be the property of the entrant and must be in their possession for at least two months (60 days\*).
5. All plants entered for competition should be clearly labeled, and the names should be displayed. Inaccurate identification shall not be grounds for disqualification.
6. The judges are the final authority for awards.
7. No exhibit shall be removed from the floor from the time of judging to the close of the show without express permission of the show chair.
8. The Allegheny Chapter will not assume responsibility for exhibits left on the tables after the show ends.

## Classes of Entries

A committee will be available to assist exhibitors in the proper identification and placement of their entries.

- Class #1 One pan rock garden plant in flower\*\*
- Class #2 One pan native plant in flower, suitable for the rock garden
- Class #3 One pan primulaceae in flower, including primula and androsace
- Class #4 One pan bulbous or rhizomatous plant in flower, suitable for the rock garden
- Class #5 One pan succulent including sempervivum, sedum and crassulaceae
- Class #6 One pan rock garden plant grown primarily for foliage, including hosta, saxifrage and ferns
- Class #7 One pan dwarf shrub, tree, or conifer
- Class #8 One bowl of cut flowers of rock garden plants, to be judged for quality, delicacy and artistic arrangement
- Class #9 A trough of three or more distinct species rock garden suitable plants arranged for effect
- Class #10 Miniature Garden: A trough of three or more distinct species rock garden suitable plants along with accessories arranged to create a miniature garden landscape
- Class #11 Chair's Choice: One pan Chair's Choice plant grown by Allegheny Chapter member for current year's plant show. 2017 Chair's Choice plant: Corydalis 'Purple Bird'

\*The 60-day plant ownership rule was established to limit entries to plants that have been in the possession of the entrant for a minimum of 60 days.

\*\*A pan is any container; a trough is a container that simulates a stone trough.

## Awards

### **Best Plant in Show – Clare Williamson Award**

Presented in honor of a former Allegheny Chapter member, given to the entry judged best in show classes 1-6. Winner will receive Best in Show ribbon, traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet, and \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. Trophy will be held for one year and then passed on to the next winner.

### **Best Dwarf Tree, Shrub, or Conifer in Show – Connie McKeever Award**

Entry judged best in class 7. Presented in honor of an Allegheny Chapter member who grew choice dwarf conifers for many years. Winner will receive traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet and \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. Trophy will be held for one year and then passed on to the next winner.

### **Best Trough in Show - Audrey Rauch Award**

Selected from classes 9-10. Presented in honor of an Allegheny Chapter member who pioneered the building and planting of troughs in the tri-state area. Winner will receive traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet and \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. Trophy will be held for one year and then passed on to the next winner.

### **Chair's Choice Award – 2017 Plant: *Corydalis Solida* 'Purple Bird'**

Plant selected and distributed to Allegheny Chapter members by the chair. Entry judged best in class 11. Winner will receive traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet and \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. Trophy will be held for one year and then passed on to the next winner.

**The Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western PA Award** - sponsored by the Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western PA. This award is given for the Best Hosta or Bulbous Plant in the Show. Winner will receive a traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet and a \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. This is a new award.

**Ribbons** – 1st (blue), 2nd (red), 3rd (yellow) if merited in each class. Honorable Mention may be given at the judges' discretion.

**High Cumulative Scores Awards** – Soergel's gift certificates: 1st (\$25), 2nd (\$20), 3rd (\$15). Total is based on 5 points for 1st place ribbons, 3 points for 2nd place ribbons, and 1 point for 3rd place ribbons. Also, 5 additional points for best in class plus an additional 5 points for best in show.

**Awards Table** will be comprised of the best entry in each class. From these best entries in each class:

- 1) Best Plant in Show will be selected from classes 1-6.
- 2) Best Dwarf Tree, Shrub, or Conifer will be the best entry in class 7.
- 3) Best Trough in Show will be selected from the best entries in classes 9-10.
- 4) Best Chair's Choice Award will be the best entry in class 11.
- 5) Best Hosta or Bulbous Plant in Show will be selected from classes 4 and 6.

All gift certificate awards will be given at the conclusion of the Show. All trophies will be presented at the Allegheny Chapter's Annual Awards Banquet.

***If you are the 2016 winner of a traveling trophy, please bring your award to this year's show. Traveling trophies will be displayed for the public during the show and then collected for engraving.***

One sale plant will be given to any Allegheny Chapter member who enters 3-5 plants, and two sale plants will be given to any Allegheny Chapter member who enters six or more.

## The Sale

March through early April is the perfect time to divide and pot up some of those clumps that may be encroaching on their neighbors and donate the extra divisions to the plant sale. Divisions and seedlings of rock garden suitable plants for the sale need to be potted up by the second week of April to allow time for the roots to recover from transplanting. Be sure the donated plants are properly labeled, clean, and healthy. Remember, there is 100% profit on all donated plants, books and garden accessories, including planted and unplanted troughs.

Help will be needed at Soergel's on Saturday evening, May 6 to set up for the show and sale. The sale will be open to the public on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and your participation all morning, afternoon, or the full day will be greatly appreciated.

Many hands will be needed early Sunday morning starting at 8 a.m. to mark prices and place donated plants on the sale tables. Sale plants will be arranged by light requirements—sun, shade, and part sun—and members will be needed throughout the day to assist the public in selecting plants that will thrive in their garden conditions. If you are not familiar with the many varieties of plants in our sale, this will be an excellent learning opportunity.

### ***Tell Your Friends!***

Please let all of your gardening friends know about our Show and Sale. Direct them to the chapter's website at <https://nargspittsburgh.wixsite.com/rock-garden> and/or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NARGS.AlleghenyChapter>.



## Chair's Choice Award



The Chair's Choice award was established in 2015 as a way to increase participation in our show and to expose members to noteworthy plants. Members receive either bulbs, plugs or plants of the selected variety and hopefully grow them for exhibit in this section of the show. To date the following are Chair's Choice Plants:

1. 2016 - SDB Iris 'Hot Coals'
  2. 2017 - Corydalis solida 'Purple Bird'
- Bobbi Diller won the first 'Chair's Choice' award in the 2016 show for Iris 'Hot Coals'.

# Cactus and Succulent Care

Len just received an order of cactus from Cactuslands Nursery (choice plants received) and the following words of wisdom were enclosed:

“When you receive your order, unpack it immediately.

Your plants have been boxed for the trip to your home. They should be exposed to light gradually. Do not expose them to full direct light immediately. Ease them into it. All succulents do not have the same light requirements. Some thrive in full sun, others in only indirect bright light. Allow the roots of your cactus to air dry a few days before planting. Most succulents other than cactus should be planted on arrival.

We suggest you plant them in damp (not wet) soil and do not water for a week or longer. We hope you enjoy growing your plants as much as we did growing them for you.



**WARNING** - Cacti and succulents are dangerous if treated improperly. Many of the succulents are armed with spines, thorns, and other protective structures which can cause injury. Euphorbiaceae and Apocynaceae have irritating or toxic sap. The customer assumes all responsibility for handling our plants with care.

## ***Cactus and Succulent Care***

While succulents are native to arid regions and generally thrive in poor soils, it does not mean one should not water them or provide nutrients. How often should you water? There is no answer that is universally correct. There is a direct relationship between water, light, temperature, soil conditions and humidity. The higher the light level and temperature and the less humid, the more often watering is required.

Most cactus and succulents have an active period about 1/3 of the year. During this active period watering can be frequent and fertilizer applied. The most active time for most cacti is during the spring and early parts of summer.

As this period passes, it is best to reduce the frequency of watering as winter approaches. They require very little water during the cold months. A good watering once a week in hot weather and once a month in the dormant period is a good point to start as you learn your plant's needs. Another approach is when the soil is completely dry, water thoroughly then let dry. If in doubt, don't water.

Too much fertilizer can be worse than none at all. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer at about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  the recommended rate.

Other succulents are more complicated. Many do not adjust their active periods, because they are growing in a different hemisphere than their native land. You need to learn the winter growers from the spring to summer growers and treat accordingly.

What is the best soil for cactus and other succulents? Most commercial potting soils are too rich in

fresh organic matter for these plants. The most important factor in choosing a planting medium is that it allows food, water and air to get to the roots and is porous enough to let water drain through. Many growers use a mix of a low peat planter mix and pumice (50/50). Sand, small pebbles, pumice and/or vermiculite are ingredients added by many successful growers and hobbyists. Experiment with different combinations to discover the right combination for your conditions.

What size pot should I use? In many cases it is best to under-pot rather than over-pot when potting slower growing or rot prone species. The more substrate in the pot, the more water that is going to be stored in the pot; larger pots take longer to dry out which can lead to potential problems with rot. Cactus like *Cereus*, *Trichocereus*,

*Stenocereus*, *Myrtillocactus*, and *Opuntia* are usually suitable for larger pots since they are not as sensitive. Your substrate mix and local climate play an important role in this as well.



A top dressing of crushed granite or pea gravel looks good and has benefits as well. It keeps the topsoil from drying out faster than the rest of the soil in the pot, keeps the base of the plant dry and assists in the even distribution of water through the soil.

Direct sun and light are not the same! Succulent plants need light, but they grow better if they don't cook in the midday sun. In the wild you will find young plants tucked under a bush, tree or something else that provides filtered light. If new growth on your plant is pale green and elongated, it needs more light. If the side of your plant facing the light source is yellow, tan, red or indented, it is getting too much light.

Succulents do not like stagnant air. Provide good air circulation for your plants.”



## Message from the Chair

Hard to believe it is the end of February, the weather has been so warm. I have been able to get out in the garden and do some spring cleaning. I also found my hellebores are blooming, and both my orange and red witch hazels are really putting on a show.

Thanks to Lenny for doing a wonderful presentation on ferns in January and getting the seeds and supplies for the seed starting workshop at the February meeting. Mark Tebbitt had a really informative and timely presentation on seed planting.

At our March meeting we will be hearing about Vertical Gardening from Katie Schuller, and in April we will be meeting at the National Aviary for a presentation on Rock Gardens of Vancouver, British Columbia from Amanda Haney. This will be a great opportunity to visit the Aviary Rock Garden to see what is blooming.

Our annual plant show and sale will be on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. As you do your spring clean-up, please pot up some of your excess alpine plants to donate for the sale. It will also be a good time to determine which of your plants will be good to enter into the show. Remember to show your chair's choice *Corydalis solida* 'Purple Bird' in that new award category. Please get the show/sale information out to all your garden friends and groups.

~Karen



**Just a reminder** - You have all received *Corydalis* tubers to be grown for the Chair's award at our May Show and Sale. They grow best if kept in the refrigerator for six to eight weeks in a dry, air-tight container. After chilling, sow them at 60 to 65 F. (16-18 C.) on the surface of the soil. They need light to germinate, so don't cover them. Whether you enter them in our May 7 show or simply plant them in your rock garden, they are a choice plants.



# Upcoming Meetings

**March 19 - Meeting Sunday at 2 PM at Northland Library**  
**Katie Schuller will discuss “Vertical Gardening”**

Members A - H are asked to bring snacks.  
 Raffle donations are always welcome!

**April 23 - Meeting Sunday at 2 PM at National Aviary**  
**Amanda Haney will discuss “The Rock Gardens of Vancouver, BC”**

Members I - P are asked to bring snacks.  
 Raffle donations are always welcome!

## **MEETING NOTICES**

### **ALLEGHENY CHAPTER ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY**

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Jan 15, 2:00 PM	Northland Library	Len Lehman	The Truth About Ferns
Feb 19, 2:00 PM	Northland Library	Mark Tebbitt	Seed Planting Workshop
Mar 19, 2:00 PM	Northland Library	Katie Schuller	Vertical Gardening
Apr 23, 2:00 PM	Aviary	Amanda Haney	Rock Gardening of Vancouver, BC
May 7, 9:00 AM	Soergel Garden Center	Show & Sale	Show & Sale
May 21	Garden Visits	Garden Visits	Garden Visits
Jun 11	DJ's Greenhouse	TBA	Breakfast
Jul	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting
Aug 20, 2:00 PM	Pine Township Park	Picnic	Picnic
Sept 17, 2:00 PM	Northland Library	Paul Zammit	TBA
Oct 15	St. John's Lutheran Church		Awards Banquet
Nov 19, 2:00 PM	Northland Library	Mark Langan	Landscaping with Miniature Hosta
Dec	No Meeting		
Dec 7, 9:00 AM	Northland Library	Trish Abrams	Seed Packaging

# January 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The January 15, 2017 meeting of the Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society was called to order at the Northland Public Library at 2:05 p.m. by Chair Karen Schmidt.

Karen introduced a favorite guest speaker, our own Len Lehman. Len's program was entitled "The Truth about Ferns – Love, Hate, Hostility, and a Gone Gay Generation. It is impossible to adequately summarize all the information Len provided. One of the many topics he covered was fern care. He said ferns:

- need 90% shade (excluding swamp ferns)
- should be kept moist – not soaked
- use rain or distilled water
- use fertilizer very sparingly
- since most creatures do not like ferns, don't use insecticides

Len concluded his presentation with pictures of ferns to know and grow including his favorite "Curly Grass".

A refreshment break followed.

The Business Meeting began with a motion by Bobbi Diller and a second by Linda Kalcevic that the November 20, 2016 minutes published in the recent issue of the Alpine Line be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Patty McGuire gave the Treasurer's Report. There were 6 checks written and 4 deposits made. Al Deurbrouck moved and Sandy Ciccone seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as received. The motion unanimously passed.

Karen Schmidt told the group that Dr. Mark Tebbitt will be the speaker at the February 19, 2017 meeting. He will discuss "Growing Alpines from Seed". This will be a great prelude for doing our always popular seed starting workshop. Karen then stated that a list of the upcoming programs may be found in the most recent issue of the newsletter.

The Bylaws Committee announced that their review is almost finished and that the Bylaws should be ready for the February meeting

At the November 20, 2016 two motions were made; because there was no quorum the vote was done by email. Motions to make \$100.00 donations to the Western PA Conservancy and Horticultural Society of Western PA did not pass. A \$100.00 donation to the National Aviary was approved by all those who voted. The motion to purchase a \$25.00 Soergel gift certificate for the Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pa's Show passed. A plaque along with the gift certificate is not necessary. Our Rock Garden Chapter will be recognized.

The group was reminded to get the word out regarding our May Show and Sale. Karen Schmidt already sent an ad to the Pennsylvania Gardener. Susan Benn asked for volunteers to help with public relations along with names of any contacts.

Two (2) varieties of ferns (Rock Cap Polypody and Purple-Stemmed Cliffbrake) suitable to the rock garden have been selected as the 2018 Chair's Choice plant. One of

each plant was given to the members to grow throughout 2017 for competition at the 2018 Plant Show. Len Lehman offered some valuable growing tips.

Len Lehman congratulated Debbie Meyer for quickly identifying the Mystery Plant. She received a gift certificate from Soergel's.

Bobbi Diller moved and Sandy Ciccone seconded that the meeting be adjourned. There were no dissenting votes.

A raffle ended the afternoon.

**~Dianne Passoth, Secretary**

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## February 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The February 19, 2017 meeting of the Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society was called to order at the Northland Public Library at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Karen Schmidt. The afternoon began with a Business Meeting.

Dianne Passoth read the minutes from the January 15, 2017 meeting. Bonnie Plato moved and Lyn Lang seconded that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Patty McGuire submitted the Treasurer's Report. There were two (2) deposits made and three (3) checks written. Al Deurbrouck moved and Len Lehman seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as received. The motion unanimously passed. In response to questions from the members, Patty gave an overview of previous financial statements.

Len Lehman announced that the Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western PA will be sponsoring an award at our May Plant Show and Sale. Susan Benn suggested that we might consider purchasing plants for the sale from a nursery in Saxonburg. Watch the Alpine Line for additional details regarding the May Plant Show and Sale.

Karen Schmidt said that Katie Schuller will discuss vertical gardening at our March 19, 2017 meeting.

Al Deurbrouck told everyone that maintenance at the National Aviary Rock Garden will begin the second week in March (weather permitting). Lyn Lang will be sending out a notice.

A refreshment break followed.

Karen introduced the guest speaker Dr. Mark Tebbitt. We were fortunate to have Mark present a program in November of last year. Dr. Tebbitt is a botany professor at California University of Pennsylvania. As part of Mark's job he teaches, conducts taxonomic research on the genus Begonia, and curates the Biology Department's greenhouse.

Mark's presentation today was "Growing Native Plants from Seed". He began by sharing pictures from his recent trip to Argentina. He then covered such topics as:

- How he defines native plants.
- Why he grows native plants.
- Why he grows native plants from seed.

- Dormancy mechanisms and Germination Codes.
- Materials used to germinate seeds.
- Tools.
- Some of his favorite wildflowers that he has grown from seed and ones that he would not.

Mark ended his program by giving examples of online companies selling native plant seeds, and where to gather additional information. However, walking in the woods, he said, is the best way to learn.

Bobbi Diller moved and Joanne Burzese seconded that the meeting be adjourned. There were no dissenting votes.

After Len Lehman described the materials available, the group ended the afternoon with a Seed Starting Workshop.

**~Dianne Passoth, Secretary**



## Mystery Plant for March/April



*This issue's mystery plant is a western native found from Alaska south into the mountains of Northern Mexico. It is included in a genera of 26 species - all of which are North American natives. One relative is an Eastern cousin which is a treasured spring ephemeral. Another is an obnoxious weed in California which was used by miners as salad greens. This issue's mystery plant, however, is considered a choice alpine plant. At one time they were considered part of the Portulaca family but now have been*

*given their own family! Be the first to correctly identify this plant with both the common name and the scientific name to receive a special prize. **Mail answers to Len Lehman at [lcleman1@verizon.net](mailto:lcleman1@verizon.net).***

**Congratulations to Debra Meyer who correctly identified the Jan/Feb mystery plant as *Senna marilandica* (Maryland Senna).**

# The NARGS Rock Garden Adjacent to the Pittsburgh Aviary

It came as no small surprise to me, during a recent breakfast gathering with some of our members, to find out that I had apparently previously volunteered to write an article about the Aviary rock garden tended by members of our chapter of NARGS. My protestations that I had no recollection of inflicting such an onerous task on myself were summarily ignored. Even when I pointed out that I was already doing a painting of the same subject, requested by the same people, they resolutely insisted that I had made such a promise. Hence the fol-



lowing attempt to enlighten you on this subject.

The current location and design of the rock garden, sited just outside the fence of the Aviary property near the Andean Condor's new cage, came about when the new entrance to the Aviary was being constructed. Our previous rock garden, which had been there for a number of years, was now deemed to be in the way of the need to park the heavy equipment being used, and as a result it was easily scooped up and obliterated by the same equipment. We managed to save the large rocks by having them piled in a safe place away from the activity until such time as a new site was decided upon by the officials that decide these

matters. In fact, this decision belonged not to the Aviary but to the Allegheny Parks Department as the ground was outside the fence surrounding the Aviary property. At the time we were concerned we could be given an undesirable site tucked away in no-man's land, but our fears were unfounded when a site alongside the entrance roadway to the Aviary was provided for our use. The condition of the location was daunting, being occupied by several large trees and untidy bushes and overtaken by tall out of control weeds, all of which would have to be removed to provide a suitable area for a rock garden. But we could see that it had distinct possibilities. We contracted Larry Hankowitz who came up with an exciting design, and the work began. With the help of the Parks Department people the site was cleared and additional rocks to supplement those we had saved were brought in to form low retaining walls that defined a pathway through the garden to allow access for closer viewing of the plants once they were established.

In addition to a large main bed, a smaller circular bed, a long undulating bed alongside the wrought iron fence incorporating a crevice garden with vertical rocks, and a shaded area under a large bass tree were formed. In the center of the three circles formed by the retaining walls, we located large pots containing the obligatory rocks, set vertically to complement the small plants that trail over the edge and hang down. Also, made from a slab of rock, a bench was provided for contemplation.



Now we were in a position to meet on a regular basis to have breakfast first and then repair to the garden to establish the plants. The success of this venture has exceeded our expectations. The sunny location has proved to be an

asset, and the majority of the plants we put in have flourished. In spring we have snowdrops, crocus, white and pink 'Lady Jane' tulips, etc.

Not all takes place without some dissension. There are those in the club who consider any plant taller than eight inches does not qualify for inclusion in a rock garden, and who look on in distain at the three-foot tall penstemon looming over the surrounding smaller plants from its prominent place in the main bed. But on the whole, all agree that the layout and variety of plants is an asset to this corner of the common.

It is particularly pleasing when dog walkers, or just people passing by, stop to complement our efforts. Sometimes, a plant flattened to the gravel indicates kids have been using the garden as a place to climb mountains, despite our warning signs to keep off, and although the presence of critters using it as a salad bowl is apparent on occasions, it's not a big problem and thankfully deer are not evidently a nuisance.

Every two weeks we meet to maintain the high standard we have set ourselves, not only for breakfast, but also at the garden as well to weed, water and clear the area of the seemingly inexhaustible leaves showered down by the large bass tree. Anyone who wishes to join our merry crew is more than welcome to do so. Lyn Lang sends out notification on each occasion.

**~Alan Peacock**

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**HEY** If you would like to share an interesting/informative article about gardening, send it to the *Alpine Line*. The deadline for contributions is the **20th of Feb., Apr., Jul., Sep., and Dec.** Please email your news to Len Lehman <lclehman1@verizon.net> or Al Deurbrouck <adeurbrouck@verizon.net>. Thank you for your interest and support of *Alpine Line*.

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# Welcome!

The Allegheny Chapter welcomes a new member, Jill Traub, who joined our group in February. We hope to meet and greet you at our next meeting at the Northland Public Library on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

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## Time to Renew Membership

NARGS Allegheny Chapter membership renewals are due for 2017. If you have not yet renewed your membership for this year, we hope to hear from you soon.

Annual dues remain \$10 for individuals and \$15 for family membership. The Chapter depends on dues to help fund the great line-up of workshops, presentations, and field trips. Also, membership provides access to the Chapter's extensive lending library of rock gardening books as well as rare and choice rock garden plants and seeds.



### **JOIN NARGS TODAY.**

NARGS is for gardening enthusiasts interested in alpine, saxatile, and low-growing perennials and woody plants. Annual dues in the US and Canada are \$40, payable in US funds. VISA/Mastercard accepted.

Benefits of membership include: *Rock Garden Quarterly* with articles on alpiners and North American wildflowers, illustrated in color photographs and pen and ink drawings; annual Seed Exchange with thousands of plant species; study weekends and annual meetings in either US or Canada; and book service.

Join online at [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org) or write: Bobby J. Ward, Executive Secretary NARGS, P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604, USA.

The NARGS *Quarterly* is now online, and members have free access at [www.nargs.org/rock-garden-quarterly](http://www.nargs.org/rock-garden-quarterly).

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**Daffodil Grooming Clinic - Saturday, April 22, 2017** - St Mark's Lutheran Church, Cumberland Rd, Wexford (across from Northland Library) - 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Learn how to prepare daffodils for exhibition.

**Daffodil Show** - in connection with Allegheny County Master Gardeners Symposium and Marketplace, held at the Ice Rink at Shady Side Academy, Fox Chapel, PA

- a. Set-up Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>
- b. Show Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>

For additional information, contact Steve and Bonnie Plato (number listed in Committee Chairs column)



## **Soergel's Garden Center — Educational Series**

**2573 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA 15090**

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Mar 23, 7:00 PM		Organic Lawn & Garden
Apr 20, 7:00 PM	Andrea Jackson	Herbs
May 18, 7:00 PM		Annuals 101
May 25, 7:00 PM	Jessica Walliser	Container Gardening



# DJ's Greenhouse & Gardens 2017 Schedule of Events

[www.djsgreenhouse.com](http://www.djsgreenhouse.com)

1004 East Lake Road, Transfer, PA 16154

724-962-1230

## APRIL

- 4<sup>th</sup> Create Your Own Fairy Garden \$35 All material included 6:30 Reservations required
- 6<sup>th</sup> Tea for 2 Herbal Container Class \$30 All material included 6:30 Reservations required
- 15<sup>th</sup> Opening Day 9-5 Stop by for refreshments
- 22<sup>nd</sup> New Plants Class 10:30 Join us as we walk the greenhouse discussing new plants for the season
- 25<sup>th</sup> Vegetable Gardening Class 6:30 It's cold outside! Planting a lettuce bowl demo

## MAY

- 16<sup>th</sup> Gardening to Attract Hummingbirds 6:30 Guest speaker Paula Shacklock
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Gardening to Attract Butterflies 6:30 Guest speaker Donnajean Enyeart
- 30<sup>th</sup> Vegetable Gardening Class \*7:15\* Is it time yet? Planting a Veggie Pot Demo!

## JUNE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Container Class \$25 All material included 6:30 Reservations required Yes, you can be creative!
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Breakfast with DJ 9:00 Reservations required No Charge! You name it, we discuss it!
- 8<sup>th</sup> Pizza Garden Container Class \$35 Pizza & beer & herbs to plant a pizza herb pot! Reservations!
- 10<sup>th</sup> Cooking with Herbs! 10:00 Deborah Plant, Plants Herb Farm Bed and Breakfast!
- 20<sup>th</sup> Create Your Own Fairy Garden \$35 All material included 6:30 Reservations required
- 27<sup>th</sup> Vegetable Gardening Class 6:30 Now that it's growing, how do I keep it going?

## JULY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Breakfast with DJ 9:00 Reservations required Fertilizer! What's That?
- 11<sup>th</sup> Create Your Own Fairy Garden \$35 All material included 6:30 Reservations required
- 18<sup>th</sup> Create Your Own Terrarium! \$35 All material included 6:30 Reservations required
- 21<sup>st</sup> Evening in the Garden \$26 (Garden Party) Reservations Great Food and Good Music! 6-9 PM
- 25<sup>th</sup> Vegetable Gardening Class 6:30 And so it begins! Harvest time....

## AUGUST

- 5<sup>th</sup> Breakfast with DJ 9:00 Reservations required You Did What, to Your Plant?
- 15<sup>th</sup> Adult Create Your Own Fairy Garden Sip & plant \$40 Reservations required All Material included
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Vegetable Gardening Class 6:30 Yes, you can still plant a fall garden!
- 26<sup>th</sup> Customer Appreciation Day 9-5 Refreshments and specials

## SEPTEMBER

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Breakfast with DJ 9:00 Reservations required It's not over yet!
- 12<sup>th</sup> Create Your Own Fairy Garden \$35 6:30 Reservations required
- TBA Leaf Casting Class \$25 Reservations required
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Fall Garden Walk 10:00 Getting your garden ready for winter! A tour of the gardens
- 26<sup>th</sup> Vegetable Gardening Class 6:30 It's all over except the harvest! Maybe!

## OCTOBER

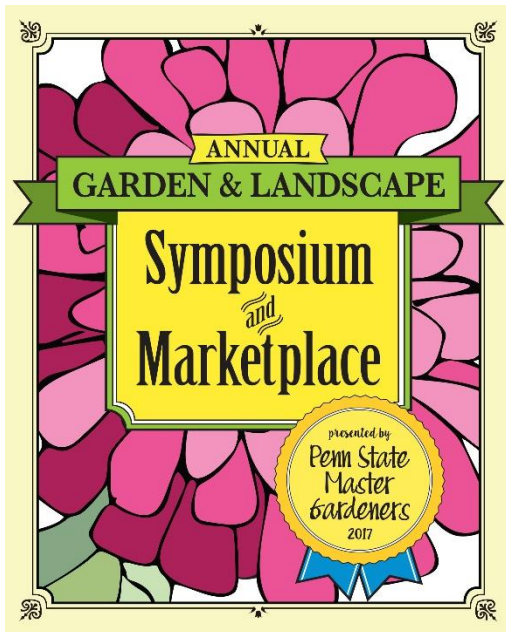
- 8<sup>th</sup> Farm to Table 4-9 Fund Raiser \$75 on Facebook@ Our Hometown Farm to Table!

Our Hours of Business are listed on the Web-Site

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



## Garden & Landscape Symposium April 29<sup>th</sup>



The Garden & Landscape Symposium of Western Pennsylvania showcases internationally renowned horticulture experts in a daylong educational event attracting more than 300 attendees.

**When:** April 29, 2017 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

**Where:** Shady Side Academy Senior School  
423 Fox Chapel Rd, Pittsburgh 15238

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, April 19, 2017

The Garden Marketplace offers attendees, as well as the general public, the opportunity to shop for new and unique plants and garden accessories from local nurseries and businesses. The Marketplace runs concurrently in the ice skating rink, just across the street from the Hillman Center. The Marketplace has become very popular with garden enthusiasts, and because it is free and open to the public, it draws many shoppers from across the area. The Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania hosts the annual Daffodil Show, featuring the region's best blooms, and invites anyone growing daffodils to enter them for judging.